GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Servants - Commercial Taxes and other Departments - Surprise check conducted on the Integrated Check-Post, Naraharipet, Chittoor district on the intervening night of 26/27.07.2014 - Initiated common disciplinary proceedings against Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, DCTO & AO now retired and four others - Articles of Charges framed - Inquiry Officer appointed - Punishment proposed in respect of Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, DCTO & AO of ICP now retired (SO-1) and Sri K.Ramesh Babu, FSO (retired) (SO-4) under Rule 9 of A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980 - Show Cause Notice issued - Written representations submitted - Examined - Imposed the penalty of withholding 5% pension for a period of one year and imposed the penalty of withholding 5% pension permanently against the retired COs viz., 1) Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, Dy.CTO & AO (SO-1) (now retired on 31.09.2019) and Sri M. Ramesh Babu, FSO (SO-4) Forest Dept., (now retired on 31.10.2017) respectively - Orders - Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-VI) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 1486 Dated: 27-11-2025

Read the following:-

1. From the DG, ACB, Lr.Rc.No.78/DES-TCT/2014,S7, dated 13.08.2015.
2. G.O.Ms.No.458, Revenue (Vigilance-II) Dept., dated 03.12.2015.
3. G.O.Rt.Nos.1237, 1238, 1239, 1240 and 1241, Revenue (Vigilance-II) Dept., dated 03.12.2015.
4. G.O.Rt.No.780, Revenue (Vigilance-II) Dept., dated 28.09.2020.
5. G.O.Rt.No.893, Revenue (Vigilance-II) Dept., dated 12.11.2020.
6. G.O.Rt.No.688, Revenue (Vigilance-II) Dept., dated 28.10.2021.
7. From the CCST's, Lr.Ref.No.V2/556/2015, dated 18.03.2023.
8. Govt.Memo.No.1139886-CCST0CCTV(ACBC)/3/2020, dated 10.11.2023.
9. From the CCST's, Lr.Ref.No.V2/556/2015, dated 17.05.2024.
10. G.O.Rt.No.526, Revenue (Vigilance-VI) Dept., dated 02.06.2025.
11. Govt.Memo.No.REV01-CCST0CCTV(ACBC)/3/2020-VIGI-II (Computer No. 1139886), dated 02.06.2025.
12. From Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, Dy.CTO & AO (Retd.), explanation dated 05.10.2025.
13. From Sri M.Ramesh Babu, FSO (Retd.), explanation dated 05.10.2025.

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ORDER:

Whereas, in the reference 1st read above, the Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau has informed that on credible information that the officials and staff of Integrated Check-Post, Naraharipet, Chittoor district were indulging in corrupt practices and collecting bribe amounts from the drivers of the vehicles passing through the check post, a surprise check was conducted on 27.07.2014 and found certain allegations and recommended to initiate departmental action against five (05) Suspected Officers/staff members of i.e., 3 from Commercial Tax Dept., and one (01) each from Forest and TR&B Dept's viz., 1) Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, DCTO & AO now retired (SO-1), 2) Sri Boddikura Hari Krishna, ACTO (SO-

2); 3) Sri K.Anandan, ACTO (SO-3); 4) Sri M.Ramesh Babu, FSO now retired from service on 31.10.2017 (SO-4), and 5) Sri Mohd.Ismail Khan, S/o.Late Md.Musthafha Ali Khan, AMVI (SO-5) respectively, for violation of A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

2. Whereas, in the reference 2nd read above, Government initiated common disciplinary proceedings against 1) Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, DCTO & AO of ICP, (retired) (SO-1), 2) Sri Boddikura Hari Krishna, ACTO, (SO-2); 3) Sri K.Anandan, ACTO, (SO-3) of C.T.Dept.; 4) Sri M.Ramesh Babu, FSO, Forest Dept., (retired on 31.10.2017) (SO-4), and 5) Sri Mohd.Ismail Khan, AMVI, Transport Dept.(SO-5) respectively under Rule 24 read with Rule 20 of the A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991. Whereas, in the references 3rd read above, Articles of Charges were framed against each of them under Rule 20 of A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 respectively for the irregularities noticed during surprise check conducted on 26/27.07.2014.

3. Whereas, all the Charged Officers submitted their Written Statement of Defenses to the Government. Since the explanations of the Charged Officers are not convincing, in the reference 4th read above, Government appointed Sri V.Raghunath, Joint Commissioner (ST), Chittoor Division as Inquiring Authority to enquire into the charges framed against the Charged Officers. As per the recommendations of the Bureau, in the reference 5th read above, Government have appointed Sri P.Nagendra, Inspector of Police, ACB, Tirupati Range, Tirupati as Presenting Officer to present the case on behalf of the disciplinary authority in support of the articles of charges framed against the charged officers and in the reference 6th read above, Government have re-appointed Sri P.John Stevenson, Jt.Commissioner (ST) as Inquiry Authority in place of Sri V.Raghunath, Jt. Commissioner (ST) as he was transferred from Chittoor Division to Vijayawada-1 Division.

4. Whereas, in the reference 7th read above, the Chief Commissioner of State Tax has furnished the Inquiry Report submitted by Sri P.John Stevenson, Jt. Commissioner (ST), Chittoor Division on the allegations against five (05) officers / staff members to the Government for taking necessary further action in the matter. After examining the Inquiry Report, in the reference 8th read above, the Inquiry Report along with disagreement factors, have been communicated to all five (05) Charges Officers under Rule 21(2) of A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 with a direction to submit their written representations on the findings of the Inquiry Officer and the disagreement factors within (15) days from the date of receipt. All the Charged Officers submitted their written explanations and requested to drop further action against them in the matter.

5. Whereas, in the reference 9th read above, the Chief Commissioner of State Tax has stated that the Jt.Commissioner (ST), Chittoor Nodal Division has submitted the served copies of the Govt.Memo.8th read above and representations of the Charged Officers and forwarded to the Government for taking further action in the matter.

6. Government, have examined the written explanations submitted by the all Charged Officers on the disagreement factors communicated by the disciplinary authority and Government observes that it is true than an amount of Rs.19,190/- seized in the Assistant Commercial Tax Officer’s rest room; and an

amount of Rs.8,560/- and Rs.14,110/- seized from the Commercial Tax Counter and Road Transport Authority Counter respectively and the deposition of the PW-3 is supported with the version of the Disciplinary authority which the action of the Charged Officer is contravene to the AP CS (Conduct) Rules, 1964. Further as per the Rulings of Supreme Court that a disciplinary proceedings is not a criminal trial and that the standard of proof required in a disciplinary inquiry is that of preponderance of probability and not proof beyond reasonable doubt. (Union of India Vs. Sardar Bahadur, 1972 SLRSC 355: State of A.P., Va. Sree Rama Rao, AIR 1963 SC 1723, and Nanda Kishore Prasad Vs. State of Bihar and others 1978 (2) SLR SC 46. For the reasons stated above, the charges framed against the Charged Officers are proved.

7. Whereas, in the reference 10th read above, Govt., issued orders imposing a penalty of withholding one annual grade increment without cumulative effect against three (03) officials viz., 1) Sri B.Hari Krishna, ACTO, now GSTO; 2) Sri K.Anandam, Sr.Asst.; and 3) Sri Mohd.Ismail Khan, AMVI, Transport Dept., respectively. Further, Government have proposed to impose the penalty of withholding 5% pension for a period of one year on Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, Dy. Commercial Tax Officer & Administrative Officer (retired) and to impose the penalty of withholding 5% pension permanently on Sri K.Ramesh Babu, Forest Section Officer, under A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980 as they have been retired from the service on attaining the age of superannuation and the charges framed against them are held proved.

8. Whereas, in the reference 11th read above, a show cause notice has been issued to the retired COs viz., 1) Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, Dy.CTO & AO (retd.) and Sri M.Ramesh Babu, FSO (now retd.), on the proposed penalty withholding 5% pension for a period of one year and the penalty of withholding 5% pension permanently respectively under Rule 9 of A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980 to submit their explanations to the Govt., within 15 days.

9. In reply to the show-cause notices, in the reference 12th read above, Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, DCTO & AO of ICP now retired, Integrated Check-Post, Naraharipet, Chittoor district has furnished his explanation stating that the proposed punishment of 5% cut in pension for one year is unjustified, unwarranted, and grossly disproportionate to the alleged offense. Hence, he has prayed the Govt., that the proposed punishment be dropped, and the Dy.CTO's pension be protected.

10. Whereas, Sri M.Ramesh Babu, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Integrated Check-Post, Naraharipet, Chittoor district in his explanation dated 05.10.2025 vide reference 13th read above has stated that after a few months of his retirement, on 21.01.2019, he suffered with severe brain stroke on his right side of his train, which resulted in paralysis of his entire left side. He was admitted to CMC Vellore Medical Hospital, where he underwent a major surgery for his brain (Craniectomy Surgery) and was kept in the Critical Care Unit (ICCU) for about 20 days. Subsequently, he was declared as permanently paralyzed on the left side left arm and leg. After discharge from Vellore, he was admitted to Sudhakar's Neuro Cure Hospital, Tirupati, for continuous follow treatment and have been under care there since March, 2019. Unfortunately, he suffered another stroke in January, 2021 and have been receiving regular treatment since then. In view of the facts and circumstances explained he has requested

the Govt., that the proposal to impose a penalty of withholding 5% of pension throughout his career be dropped. Government have observed that both Charged Officers have not submitted any new grounds to consider the proposed punishments.

11. Government, after careful examination of the Inquiry Report and written explanations submitted by the retired Charged Officers to the disagreement factors on the findings of the Inquiry Officers and in view of the material available on record, hereby order to impose the penalty of withholding 5% pension for a period of one year against the retired Charged Officer viz., Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, Dy. Commercial Tax Officer & Administrative Officer (SO-1) of Integrated Check-Post (now retired on 31.01.2019) and to impose the penalty of withholding 5% pension permanently against the retired Charged Officer viz., Sri M.Ramesh Babu, Forest Section Officer (SO-4), Forest Department (now retired on 31.10.2017) respectively, under Rule 9(1) of A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980, as the charges framed against them are held proved.

12. The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Andhra Pradesh, Kunchanapalli, Guntur shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PEEYUSH KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The individuals concerned (through the Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Andhra Pradesh, Kunchanapalli, Guntur district)
The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Andhra Pradesh, Kunchanapalli, Guntur district
The Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (SEC.IV) Department, A.P.Secretariat, for necessary action

Copy to:-
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, for favour of information
The Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada, for favour of information
SF/SCs (Computer No.1139886)

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER